

SECRET

PP STAFF COORDINATION

PROJECT: AEQUOR

	AMENDMENT NO.	DIVISION	SR
X	RENEWAL (FY 1959)	BRANCH	3
	TERMINATION	DESK	Ukrainian/Byelorussian

STAFF CONCURRENCE

MEMORANDUM ATTACHED

ORGANIZATIONAL ELEMENT	SIGNATURE	COPY NO.	DATE	YES	NO	DATE
SSA-DD/S	[Signature]	2	1/17/58			
PP/PRD/RB	[Signature]	1 & 3	13 NOV 58			
10/D	[Signature]	3	12/11/58	✓		
PP/Prop	[Signature]	3	7/11/58	✓		
PP/C/PRD		1				

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

<i>fre</i> CPP	SIGNATURE	[Signature]	DATE
A/DD/P/P	SIGNATURE		17 Nov. 58

(1) This space reserved for comments of SSA-DD/S; CPP; A/DD/P/P.)

Funds programmed in operating budget.

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

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REQUEST FOR PP PROJECT RENEWAL
DIVISION PROJECT CLEARANCE SHEET

1. ACTION: Request for Renewal, FY 1959

a. Project Cryptonym	<u>AEQUOR/PP</u>
b. Division	<u>SR</u>
c. Branch	<u>DOB</u>
d. Desk	<u>Ukrainian/Byelorussian</u>
e. Case Officer's Name and Telephone Extension	[] 8331

2. DIVISION CONCURRENCES

<u>Case Officer</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>13 Oct 58</u>	Date
<u>Chief, SR/PP</u>	<u>I</u>	<u> </u>	Date
<u>Chief, SR Administration</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>28 Oct 1958</u>	Date
<u>Chief, SR Division</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>29 Oct 1958</u>	Date

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REQUEST FOR PP PROJECT RENEWAL

DIVISION PROJECT CLEARANCE SHEET

1. TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:

[]

2. AMOUNT IN WHICH PROJECT WAS INCLUDED IN THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAM:

[]

3. SUMMARY OF FUNDS APPROVED AND OBLIGATED BY FISCAL YEAR SINCE PROJECT INITIATION:

	<u>OBLIGATED</u>	<u>APPROVED</u>
1953	[]	
1954		
1955		
1956		
1957		
1958		

The sum of [] has been set aside in Project Programming for FY 1959 for Project AEQUOR.

4. PROJECT AEQUOR DATA:

a. There have been no policy changes, National, Agency or other, within the previous fiscal year which have had a bearing upon the project.

b. There has been no change in the objectives of Project AEQUOR/PP. The purpose of the project continues to be the exploitation of existing anti-Soviet Byelorussian emigre groups and the ultimate development of covert PP assets within the borders of the Byelorussian S.S.R.

c. There have been no significant changes other than those occurring within the personnel of the AEQUOR Project. These have occurred in rotation of Headquarters Case Officers; in the cancellation of AECAMBISTA/16's contract (without prejudice); and in the withdrawal of AECAMBISTA/5 from all AEQUOR activities and contacts once he became the object of RIS attention.

d. The PP vehicle of Project AEQUOR is primarily the Byelorussian newspaper, the BATKAUVSHINA, or THE FATHERLAND, a four page weekly printed in Munich, Germany. This newspaper is circulated throughout the world via international mail. In addition to the newspaper, AEQUOR produces books, pamphlets and brochures when these are deemed profitable PP-wise. An example of the latter is the production of the Byelorussian Independence Day Manifesto, issued in March 1958. AECAMBISTA/4, President of the BNR and PA of the AEQUOR Project, is also President of the PARIS BLOC and as such is a participant, with other members of the BNR, in various conferences, conventions, and meetings throughout the world.

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e. The most significant operational event within the past 12 months was the Byelorussian Independence Day celebration of 1958. AEPRIMER/1 was received by Vice President Nixon; the Archbishop of the Byelorussian Church delivered a prayer in the House; the Governors of Illinois, Ohio, New Jersey and New York declared the day as being officially, Byelorussian Independence Day; various members of Congress made speeches for the record and for public consumption and in addition to this, the BNR published the "Byelorussian Independence Day Manifesto". The manifesto was distributed throughout the world and requests for copies, once it became publicized, were received from such unforeseen places as Africa and Asia. The manifesto is also being used as text material in the U.S. War College. While all this is of some importance, the value of the manifesto and the Independence Day celebration lay in the attention it received in the Soviet press. Articles appeared in Soviet Russian and Soviet Byelorussian newspapers and magazines denouncing the BNR, the BATKAUVSHCHINA and AECAMBISTA/4 as being tools of the imperialists, provaricators, fascists etc. It is felt that this denunciation by the Soviet Government, the first such violent one in the history of the BNR and the BATKAUVSHCHINA as tantamount to publicizing recognition by the Soviets of the existence in the West of an organization claiming to be the legal government of Byelorussia. Since the denunciation received such widespread coverage in the Soviet Union it is felt that this too was of decided advantage to the BNR, and of course, AEQUOR, as it initiated or confirmed in the minds of those Byelorussians in the Byelorussian S.S.R., who were ignorant or doubtful of the fact, that there was in existence an organization outside of the Soviet Union which was continuing the struggle for an Independent Byelorussia.

f. The Headquarters Case Officer is at present in receipt of eleven letters, 7 mailed from Warsaw, 3 from Bialostok and 1 from Krinki (the two latter from areas formerly belonging to Byelorussia) attesting to either the receipt or perusal of the BATSKAUVSHCHINA and requesting more copies of the newspaper. Other letters, currently in the editorial offices of the BATSKAUVSHCHINA are being forwarded to the Headquarters Case Officer. These letters, when considered in the light of the difficulty and risk attendant upon the egress of compromising letters from within the Satellite-Soviet border, do show the value accorded this publication by those persons it has reached. The content of the newspaper has been mainly directed towards the intellectual and cultural desires of the Byelorussian peoples and in this it may be slightly remiss as it ignores other equally fertile fields. Recent discussions between AECAMBISTA/11, the person designated by AECAMBISTA/4 to be the BNR Operations-Liaison contact with Headquarters Case Officer, and the Headquarters Case Officer have produced a mutual desire to expand the content of the newspaper to include articles targeted against the youth of Byelorussia. The prime reasons being firstly that this social group is usually the most impressionable in any country and secondly, because the Soviet Byelorussian youth has demonstrated, as also the Soviet youth, a liking for many things Western, particularly modern music. While this in itself might seem minor it does prove a flaw in the Communist indoctrination of the youth which should be exploited.

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g. FI production has been a by-product of Project AEQUOR/PP and almost negligible, consisting of reports containing information culled from "letters from home" and dealing mostly with living conditions.

h. The publication, THE FATHERLAND, appears as the official organ of the Byelorussian National Council. There is no reason to believe that the Byelorussian emigration suspects the publications to be anything but a wholly BNR production.

The employees of the publication are unwitting of Central Intelligence Agency or U.S. Government interest and are therefore in no position to compromise the subsidization.

Funds granted to the BNR by the Agency for the publishing of THE FATHERLAND are explained to the Byelorussian emigration as emanating from BNR coffers, augmented by contributions from people interested in the realization of Byelorussian freedom from the Communist yoke. The Field Case Officer delivers monthly subsidies to a cutout, who has full operational clearance, for transmittal to the publications staff.

Only three members of the BNR are aware of Central Intelligence Agency interest and the fact that the funds for the publication come from the Agency. The only jeopardy involved in the subsidy operation are those traditional risks inherent and peculiar to a subsidy type effort. It can be anticipated that no violent action would be forthcoming from the U.S.S.R. were the subsidy effort to be compromised.

There have been no disposal problems and none are anticipated. Witting members of the subsidy effort are dedicated members of the BNR with such nationalistic tendencies as to preclude them from making any detrimental disclosures that would jeopardize their national interest.

In the case of the publication, operational control is maintained by CIA through the Field Case Officer who transmits the funds to a representative of the BNR at specified intervals and receives financial accountings of expenditures. Central Intelligence Agency controls the publication by supplying approximately 90% of the total operating funds. The BNR, when granted subsidization for the publication, agreed to accept CIA suggestions concerning editorial policy thereby enhancing the chances of fulfilling the Agency's objectives among the Byelorussian emigre groups. To date the publication has been readily responsive to suggestions offered.

A security consideration developed when AECAMBISTA/5 became the target of an RIS re-defection attempt which, when it became known, caused him to be withdrawn from all AEQUOR matters and from all contact with AEQUOR agents and personnel. This aspect is being handled by the Field Case Officer as a CE venture. There are no indications at present upon which to base a presumption that this is an RIS attempt against the AEQUOR complex therefore, it is assumed that the re-defection is a singleton attempt.

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i. The Principal Agent of the AEQUOR Project does not have a pseudonym, only the cryptonym AECAMBISTA/4. He meets on approximately a monthly basis unless developments are such as to demand other meetings. In addition, the Principal Agent maintains contact with a second field case officer stationed in the American Embassy in Paris. AECAMBISTA/4 is deeply ideologically motivated, he is an ardent nationalist intensely anti-Communist and anti-Soviet. He is capable in the performance of his obligations and responsibilities as a Principal Agent. His most recent activity has been that of producing a REDSOX agent candidate who will be trained under Project AETRELLIS to act as a Principal Agent in an intelligence gathering net to be activated in Byelorussia. He makes many propositions of operations, both FI and PP all of which are worthy and reflect sound judgement and operational acumen. He is limited only by the funds made available to him. With the one exception noted above, control during the reporting period seems to be, as in the past, very good, neither increasing nor decreasing.

j. Project AEQUOR requires the part-time services of three staff personnel:

1 - Field Case Officer - in FROB
1 - Field Case Officer -]
1 - Headquarters Case Officer

and the full time services of:

2 - Field Agents

A constant spotting requirement has been placed upon each of the AECAMBISTAS for REDSOX types. These are forwarded to AECAMBISTA/4 as though for BNR use. In addition, AECAMBISTA/4, AECAMBISTA/11 and AEPRIMER/1 (who is a BNR member) also spot for REDSKIN and AEDEPOT Hot War agent candidates. As a result of the efforts of these three the following has been accomplished within the last six months:

AECAMBISTA/4 - 1 REDSOX candidate for a Byelorussian S.S.R. mission (AETRELLIS).

1 Potential FI or CE operation involving a Byelorussian now resident in B.S.S.R.

AEPRIMER/1 - 4 REDSKIN candidates
(Byelorussian 1 REDSOX candidate for a Byelorussian S.S.R.
spotter in mission (AECULTIVATE)
N.Y.C.) 2 AEDEPOT candidates

AECAMBISTA/11 - 1 REDSKIN
1 AEDEPOT candidate

A problem peculiar to all of the AECAMBISTAS and AEPRIMER/1 is that their spotting efforts are of necessity part-time, there being no full-time spotter within the AEQUOR complex. For this reason optimum results are difficult of attainment.

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k. Insofar as is known from de-briefings, polygraphs and personnel observation no member of the AEQUOR complex maintains relations with any intelligence service other than the Central Intelligence Agency.

l. AECAMBISTA/4, as President of the BNR and also as President of the PARIS BLOC, maintains contact with various members of the U.S. Department of State Political Branch. This contact is completely divorced from AEQUOR Project matters and encroaches only in those instances where there is a harmless overlap between matters political and PP.

m. Plans for the ensuing year encompass the continued publication of the BATSKAUVSHCHINA, and if feasible, the inclusion of articles slanted toward the Byelorussian youth. In addition, it is hoped that a letter play will be initiated involving genuine letters from the Byelorussia S.S.R., the contents to be replaced by PP letters written by AECAMBISTA/11 with the composite of genuine envelope and forged letter to be reproduced in the BATSKAUVSHCHINA. AECAMBISTA/4 and 11 are greatly desirous of participating in the 1959 Communist Youth International Convention to be held in VIENNA, AUSTRIA. This matter has but recently been proposed and at the moment has not achieved decision.

n. The budgetary breakdown for the requested renewal period is as follows:

2 Field Agents	[]
Office	1,000.00
Travel	1,000.00
Supplies	1,000.00
Editing Fees	1,000.00
Printing	7,000.00
Total	[]

o. A request for waiver of renewal of Project AEQUOR/PP was granted in December 1957, to permit a complete review and assessment of the Project and also of all Byelorussian-Central Intelligence Agency operations. Said review (copy attached) was prepared by the then Senior Case Officer of the SR/DOB Ukrainian/Byelorussian Desk, and forwarded to the SR Division staff. The decision achieved by the SR Division was that Project AEQUOR was with merit and should be continued.

[]
Ukrainian/Byelorussian Unit
[]

Att. - Review of BNR

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24 October 1958

MATERIEL AND FACILITIES REQUIREMENTS ANNEX

PROJECT - AEQUOR - PP

Logistics support is not required in FY 1959 for Project AEQUOR-PP other than that provided by the subsidy group with subsidy funds.

[]
Chief, SR/Logistics

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(When Filled In)

14 October 1958

PROJECT FINANCIAL DATA		PROJECT CRYPTONYM AEQUOR																																																																								
		FISCAL PERIOD COVERED 1 July 1958 THRU 30 JUNE 1959																																																																								
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A. PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS																																																																										
<p>Indicate number and type of personnel required and estimated total compensation for salary, allowances, travel and related employee benefits. Include everyone paid from project.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">TYPE</th> <th colspan="2">NUMBER</th> <th colspan="3">ESTIMATED COMPENSATION</th> </tr> <tr> <th>U. S. PERSONNEL</th> <th>FOREIGN NATIONAL</th> <th>BASE SALARY</th> <th>ALL OTHER</th> <th>TOTAL</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>STAFF EMPLOYEES</td><td></td><td>[]</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>STAFF AGENTS</td><td></td><td>[]</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>CAREER AGENTS</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>CONTRACT AGENTS</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>CONTRACT CONSULTANTS</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>DETAILED PERSONNEL</td><td></td><td>[]</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>FIELD AGENTS</td><td>[]</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>MILITARY</td><td></td><td>[]</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>ALL OTHER</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>TOTAL A.</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>				TYPE	NUMBER		ESTIMATED COMPENSATION			U. S. PERSONNEL	FOREIGN NATIONAL	BASE SALARY	ALL OTHER	TOTAL	STAFF EMPLOYEES		[]				STAFF AGENTS		[]				CAREER AGENTS						CONTRACT AGENTS						CONTRACT CONSULTANTS						DETAILED PERSONNEL		[]				FIELD AGENTS	[]					MILITARY		[]				ALL OTHER						TOTAL A.					
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<p>Indicate volume and nature of expenses such as (1) maintenance of two operational houses abroad (2) spot purchase of information, etc.</p>																																																																										
TOTAL C.																																																																										
D. SUBSIDY OR PROPRIETARY PAYMENTS																																																																										
<p>If funds are to be turned over to individuals or groups in large lump sums to be expended by the individuals or groups at their discretion to accomplish an agreed-upon objective, explain the type of financial accounts, factual verification or statements, if any, other than a receipt for the lump sum, which will be obtained.</p>																																																																										
<p>Details under this heading as reflected in Project Outline. Accountings in accordance with approved Administrative Plan.</p>																																																																										
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TOTAL FUND REQUIREMENTS (A + B + C + D) \$																																																																										

SECRET
(When Filled In)

E. FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

APPROXIMATE DATES AND AMOUNTS OF MONEY REQUIRED

FORM REQUIRED

U.S. DOLLARS

FOREIGN (SPECIFY)

NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS (SPECIFY)

SPECIAL SECURITY REQUIREMENTS OR METHODS OF TRANSMISSION

F. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

(Within security limitations, list any other facts or circumstances which will enable Special Support Staff to lend adequate logistical support to this project. Indicate specifically the "RUSH" or "TIME" factors involved.)

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